**Name :**

**Article:** “Distinguishing the Essential from the Important: Using Research to Strengthen the Use of Standards for Administrator and Licensure Programs”

* What were the key points highlighted in the article?

I would say that the key points are that the principal in the school building is the key to student achievement and good instruction. The article pointed out the difference between 1st and 2nd order change, and that what works to promote 1st order change may not work to promote 2nd order change. The principal must involve the staff and get their input on minor changes as well as on the major changes that are new, different, and outside the box type of items. There are 21 key issues that the principal should do that research shows make a difference for student achievement and success for students and staff in the school setting.

* Review the crosswalk of McRel’s work. What is the correlation between the crosswalk, the article, and the Iowa Standards for School Leaders?

There are many correlations as some of the categories that McRel notes are the same or very similar to the 6 standards for Iowa School Leaders. The Balanced Leadership categories actually help define and identify more of the criterion that is needed by a building level principal for success at school by students and staff. I would say that the Balanced Leadership categories are very useful, practical, and easy to read and focus on as an administrator. The fact that extensive research went into developing this material makes the Balanced Leadership more important and pertinent to the job as a school administrator.

* What are the pluses and minuses of focusing *daily* on the standards and the leadership responsibilities in your work with your building administrators?

It would be a great thing to focus on the standards each day throughout the day as these are the driving focus areas to have a high achieving quality school. The downside might be that the 6 standards and all of the criteria could be overwhelming to focus on and ponder on daily as the school administrator has many varied issues to contend with during the course of a single day at school. I believe that a school administrator should certainly keep the 6 Iowa Leadership standards in mind as well as the Balanced Leadership categories, and review his or her progress toward the standards weekly.

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